



October 2, 2018

To Our Friends at the Metropolitan Tennis Group,

Every October, our family and Foundation reflects on the passage of time since our son Matthew was lost to the anti-gay hate crime in Laramie, Wyoming that changed the course of our nation. It's a time every year when we consider the long journey from the murder to the present day, and the extraordinary progress LGBTQ+ Americans have made in attaining equal rights and respect for their dignity as individuals. It's been two decades now. Your support is needed and appreciated now, more than ever.

One constant over all these years has been your dedication and generosity toward our Foundation through the Matthew Shepard Memorial Tennis Jam. We are so grateful and touched that this annual event has continued to go on, year after year, supporting our work. We truly cannot thank you enough. We succeed because of you.

The tens of thousands of dollars you have raised are a big part of why we can continue our work to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion and Acceptance." The landscape of our country under this administration has pressed rewind on a lot of the progress we have made. But we must only ever look forward, never backward.

MTG members were some of the very first people who took up our cause in the days and weeks after Matt's death and continue to help us today. We can never thank you enough for your spirit of giving. Truly, thank you.

We will be continuing our educational programs in high schools and colleges, our support for Laramie Project productions and our advocacy to prosecute and prevent hate crimes for as long as it takes - and your help is making a difference.

It is so humbling to have earned such outstanding support, and you will forever have our gratitude for it.

All my best,

Judy Shepard, Co-Founder and Board President



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